

REMARKS

In the outstanding Official Action, Figure 6 was objected-to as lacking designation with a legend as "Prior Art". Claim 9 was objected to for informalities. Claims 1, 2, 4, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over SATO (U.S. Patent No. 5,982,763) in view of HIGASHI et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,692,015). Claims 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over SATO in view of HIGASHI, and further in view of HARRISON et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,028,887). Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over SATO in view of HIGASHI, and further in view of HARRISON, and further in view of DABAK et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,728,302).

Claim 3 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was otherwise indicated as containing allowable subject matter if rewritten into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base and any intervening claims.

Initially, Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for his indication of the allowability of claim 3, if rewritten into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base and any intervening claims.

Applicant would also like to thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119, as well as receipt of certified copies of all of the priority documents upon which the claim for foreign priority is based.

Applicant would further like to thank the Examiner for acknowledging consideration of the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on December 18, 2001. However, the Examiner did not initial U.S. Patent No. 5,881,057 (KOMATSU) to confirm consideration thereof. While this is believed to be an oversight, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner explicitly confirm consideration of this

document in the next Official Action, to complete the record of the present application.

Attached hereto, Applicant has provided a Replacement Sheet for Figure 6, in which Figure 6 is labeled as "Prior Art". In view of the attached Replacement Sheet, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-12 will have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Additionally, claims 13-18 will have been submitted for consideration by the Examiner. In view of the cancellation of claims 1-12, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the outstanding objections and rejections has been rendered moot.

Applicant submits that claim 13 is allowable. In this regard, Applicant notes that claim 13 recites a combination of features similar to the combination of features previously recited in claim 3. As noted above, the outstanding Official Action indicated the allowability of claim 3, if rewritten into independent form to include the limitations of base and any intervening claims. In particular, the Statement of Reasons for Allowance, at page 6 of the Official Action, indicates that "the prior art does not disclose the memory interface section selectively accesses a memory block corresponding to a slot subject to coherent detection and a memory block corresponding to a slot currently being received". At least because the Examiner has previously indicated the allowability of subject matter recited in claim 3, Applicant respectfully requests entry of claim 13, as well as an indication of its allowability.

Applicant also submits that claims 14-15 and 17 are allowable at least for depending from an allowable independent claim 13, as well as for additional reasons

related to their own recitations.

Applicant additionally requests an indication of the allowability of newly submitted independent claim 16. In this regard, claim 16 recites a combination of features similar to the features previously recited in claims 10 and 3 (in combination), although Applicant notes that claim 3 did not previously depend from claim 10. However, as noted above, the Statement of Reasons for Allowance, at page 6 of the Official Action, indicates that “the prior art does not disclose the memory interface section selectively accesses a memory block corresponding to a slot subject to coherent detection and a memory block corresponding to a slot currently being received”. Applicant submits that claim 16 is allowable at least because claim 16 recites a combination of features similar to the features previously recited in claims 10 and 3, including the above-noted feature previously recited in claim 3 which the Examiner has determined is not disclosed, in the claimed combination, in the prior art.

Applicant additionally submits that claim 18 is allowable at least for depending from an allowable independent claim 16, as well as for additional reasons related to its own recitations.

Accordingly, at least for each of the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding objections and rejections, as well as an indication of the allowability of each of the claims now pending.

Additionally, in response to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance in the outstanding Official Action, Applicant wishes to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of claims in the present application. In this regard, while

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Applicant does not disagree with the Examiner's indication that certain identified features are not disclosed by the references, Applicant submits that each of the claims in the present application recite a particular combination of features, and that the basis for patentability of each of these claims is based on the totality of the particular features recited therein.

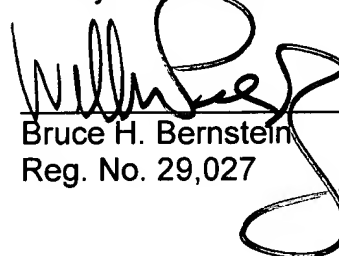
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so. Applicant has added a new set of claims for consideration by the Examiner. Applicant has also submitted a Replacement Sheet of Drawings for Figure 6. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding objections and rejections, entry of new claims 13-18, and an indication of the allowability of each of the claims now pending.

Any new claims which have been added in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been added for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any comments regarding this Response of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto, Applicant has provided a replacement drawing for Figure 6 which labels Figure 6 as "Prior Art" in accordance with the Examiner's requirement.